

REMARKS

The herein Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated August 20, 2004, in which claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilen, U.S. Pat. No. 5,913,347, in view of Schulman, U.S. Pat. No. 2,304,961, and claim 4 which was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilen in view of Schulman and further in view of Stuck, U.S. Pat. No. 4,964,186. By this Amendment, claim 1, the sole independent claim in the application, has been amended to overcome these rejections and the cited prior art. Claim 1 now more particularly points out and distinctly claims the unique aspects of the subject invention.

Specifically, amended independent claim 1 recites that the unitary mop body of the deck mop has front and rear walls which extend substantially the full longitudinal length of the mop body, the length being longer than the width of the mop body. Walls 12 of Wilen, referenced in the Office Action as being front and rear walls, are actually side walls of mop head assembly 10 and, as a result, do not extend the full longitudinal length of the mop head assembly.

Claim 1 now also references an intervening top wall which has a uniform transverse width which is substantially the same width as the mop body and which traverses the length of the body, between the front and rear walls. Once again, the intervening top wall of Wilen, referenced as component 36 in the Office Action, does not have a uniform transverse width extending the entire length of the body between front and rear walls.

In addition, claim 1 now recites that the front wall and rear wall extend substantially from the top wall to the mop strands, an aspect, once again, which is not shown by Wilen.

Finally, claim 1 states that the support means for connecting the scrubber means to the front wall comprises a plurality of rib means which extend outwardly from the wall and between the front wall and the scrubber means for maintaining the abrasive surface of the scrubber means

in a downwardly facing, stationary position in relation to the mop body. Wilen fails to disclose this feature and it contains no teaching which would allow such a radical change in its structure to meet this recitation in the claim. The combination of Wilen and Schulman also fails to meet the language of claim 1 as now amended.

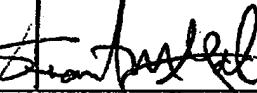
As a result, independent claim 1, as now amended, is allowable over the prior and, as the remaining claims 1-4 are dependent on claim 1, these claims are allowable as well. The applicant is in this, and all other respects, in condition for allowance.

If the examiner, upon review of the herein Amendment, believes that additional changes may be appropriate to advance the prosecution of this application, he is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I certify that the Amendment After First Office Action was sent to Randall Chin, Examiner, Art Unit 1744, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, via Fax 703-872-9306 on September 27, 2004.



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